

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 2–17 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Changes to the claims as presented herein, are not submitted for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are submitted simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claims 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification. In response, Applicants have deleted “the angle of depression” limitation from claims 16 and 17. The plurality of circles or arcs equidistant from a center point is shown in Figure 4. The scaling of the displayed equidistant curves is changed “in accordance with the perspective of the map being displayed.” Therefore, Applicants believe this rejection has been overcome.

Claims 2–15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida (U.S. Patent 5,212,643) and De Jong (European Patent publication 0 378 271). In response, independent claims 2 and 9 have been amended to recite: “a circle or an arc which is an equidistant curve from a center at a specified point on said map and links points on said

perspective view at a constant distance corresponding to actual road distances from said center equal to those on said map.” (Claims 2 and 9) The amended limitations are shown and supported by Figures 2B, 3, and 4. Specifically, “a circle or an arc which is an equidistant curve” is shown as circle 44 displayed in perspective in Figure 2B. In other words, the present invention displays in perspective view a circle or portion thereof (i.e. an arc) which corresponds to a constant distance from the driver’s current position as displayed on the map. By contrast, Yoshida discloses using a plurality of stored “scale indication patterns showing the respective reduced scales.” (Abstract) Thus Yoshida uses a predetermined selection of circles corresponding to various scales, rather than calculating (processing) the circles based on the scale at the time of display as recited in the present invention. De Jong is relied on solely to meet the present invention’s perspective view limitation and does not disclose processing of circles or arcs. Therefore, for at least this reason, Applicants believe claims 2–15 should now be allowed.

Claims 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida and De Jong, as discussed above, and further in view of Koyanagi (U.S. Patent 6,012,014). As discussed by the Examiner, Koyanagi describes an electronic map “that displays grid lines or latitude and longitude lines to show a scale on a perspective view of a map to give the user a sense of distance. See col. 1, line 63 – col. 2, line 10.” (Office Action page 5) However, the present invention’s circles/arcs are “displayed so that the constant distance for each equidistant curve corresponding to actual road distance is changed.” Hence, the present circles/arcs are different than the grid lines or latitude and longitude lines disclosed in Koyanagi.

Accordingly, the combination of Yoshida, DeJong, and Koyanagi fails to obviate the present invention and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

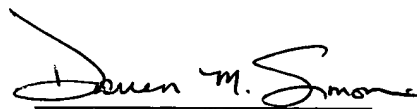
In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
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